The Municipal Council have so far ıot agreed by a resolution to meet 50 ıer cent of the cost of Rs. 11,181-11-0.

Enlarging Forest Area.

Q.—229. **Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS** St. John's Hill).—

Will the Government be pleased to tate:—

(*a*) the area covered by forests in he State and its percentage to the total rea;

(*b*) whether it is their policy to ıcrease this area;

(*c*) if so, the steps that are being ıken to implement this policy?

A.—**Sri T. CHANNIAH** (Minister for 'ublic Health and Local Self-Govern-ıent).—

(*a*) 4,704·64 square miles. The ɔtal area is just about 15 per cent of he land area of the State.

(*b*) and (*c*) Though the percentage f Forests to land area in the State is ır below, the accepted international tandard of 25 per cent, the scope of nlarging the area is very limited as lmost all the wooded lands in Malnad ;aving out enough for the ryots to xercise their rights under Malnad ;aiyats' Special Privileges Rules have lready been reserved. There is also ɔout organised opposition in maidan reas by the raiyats for bringing any ınds under reservation. On the other and, the number of applications for isafforesting even the existing areas ɔr cultivation is on the increase of late, nd in view of the "Grow More Food" ampaign and the food scarcity, such pplications are being carefully scruti-ised and action is being taken to ɔserve as much of the wooded area djoining the notified State Forests as ossible. To supplement the natural ɔrests, artificial plantations of fuel pecies are being raised on a large scale ɔund about Bangalore under "Post Var Development Scheme" and fuel nd teak plantations are also being ıised yearly in all important State ɔrests to intensify the forest growth.

Reservation of Posts for Backward Class Citizens.

Q.—283. **Sri M. MADIAH** (Nanjangud—Scheduled Castes).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether they have made any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in their opinion is not adequately represented in the services under the State (Mysore) as declared in the Article 16 (*c*) of the Indian Constitution;

(*b*) the names of the backward communities which come under the above backward classes of citizens;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the names of the communities which in their opinion are not adequately represented;

(*d*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, the reasons as to why such provision has not yet been made?

A.—**Sri Kadidal MANJAPPA** (Minister for Revenue and Public Works).—

(*a*) The existing procedure of reserving 75 per cent of the direct recruitment vacancies for the backward classes is being continued and no separate orders have been passed under Article 16(4).

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) The Government of India have not yet constituted a backward classes commission and the subject of changing the rules regarding the reservation for backward classes is under the consideration of Government.

Communities included in Amildari List.

Q.—285. **Sri M. MADIAH** (Nanjangud—Scheduled Castes).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the total number of persons included in the Amildari list;

(*b*) the total number of persons belonging to the different communities in the list (community war figures may be furnished)?